

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-20; amend Claim 21; and add new Claims 22-39 as follows.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.-20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device comprising a catalyst assembly ~~according to claim 1,~~ comprising a substrate, nanofilaments which have a nanometer-size diameter and are formed on the substrate, and particles which have a nanometer-size diameter, at least one of the nanofilaments and the particles having a catalytic function.

22. (new) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the nanofilaments are formed at intervals of from 2 to 200 nanometers.

23. (new) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the nanofilaments are formed at intervals of from 2 to 100 nanometers.

24. (new) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the particles have a diameter of from 0.5 to 50 nanometers.

25. (new) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the nanofilaments grow up from a surface of the substrate.

26. (new) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the nanofilaments protrude from a surface of the substrate.

27. (new) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the particles are supported on the nanofilament.

28. (new) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the substrate is in the shape of a plate, honeycomb, particle, or stick.

29. (new) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the substrate comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of an oxide, a nitride, or a carbide of a metal or silicon, and a solid solution thereof.

30. (new) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the particles have a catalytic function.

31. (new) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the particles comprise at least one selected from the group consisting of a metal, a metal oxide and a metal sulfide.

32. (new) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the particles comprise platinum.

33. (new) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 30, wherein the nanofilaments comprise a material having a co-catalytic function.

34. (new) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 30, wherein the material has a function for adsorbing and desorbing oxygen.

35. (new) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 30, wherein the nanofilaments comprise an oxide of cerium, zirconium or yttrium, or a solid solution thereof.

36. (new) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 30, wherein the nanofilaments comprise CeO_2 , ZrO_2 or Y_2O_3 .

37. (new) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 30, wherein the nanofilaments comprise CeO_2 .

38. (new) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the particles comprise platinum and the nanofilaments comprise CeO_2 or a solid solution of CeO_2 and ZrO_2 .

39. (new) An automobile exhaust gas purifying device according to claim 21, wherein the catalytic function comprises purifying an automobile exhaust gas.